

vulnerable children, those who are part of the Even Start program.

These children's families qualify for Even Start because they are low socioeconomic families who may also be English learners. Program liaisons work with the families from the children's infancy until they are in school. Even Start funds approximately 1,400 programs and serves approximately 50,000 families across the Nation.

Without this existing William F. Goodling Even Start Family Literacy Program, these children would arrive for their first day of school without the literacy skills to compete at that starting line. They are unlikely ever to catch up, even if they are able to be served in the Head Start program before actually entering school, unless the adults who work with them in these critical early years learn literacy teaching skills and learn to value the role of education.

Over 86 percent of parents in the Even Start program have not completed high school upon entering the program (compared with about 27 percent of Head Start parents). Eighty percent of participants have a family income below \$15,000 and over 40 percent have income below \$6,000. This is clearly a high-needs population.

What the program offers is both literacy-training classes for the children and family literacy programs for the parents. Children participating in Even Start are provided with age-appropriate educational services to ensure that they will achieve at a level similar to that of their age peers who come from socio-economically enriched backgrounds.

Liaison advisors work with each family to promote strong literacy support experiences, to help parents learn ways they can develop their own English literacy skills, and to provide support groups for parents to share the challenges and skills of parenting.

In developing their own literacy, adults in these family literacy programs tend to participate longer than those in regular adult education programs because they can link their literacy growth to that of their children. They not only see benefits in improved literacy skills but also reduced dependency on federal/state assistance programs and enhanced employment opportunities. Most importantly, they are empowered to be successful as their child's first and most important teacher.

This bill will set aside funding to establish nationwide programs to assist in the training of program directors and facilitators in recently developed, research-based literacy training skills.

President Bush has declared his support for helping parents, day-care centers, and preschools teach more learning skills to children before they get to kindergarten. Even Start provides just such a program for parents to develop the literacy skills that enable them to perform this task. Because of new legislation, particularly the new qualifications for personnel, performance objectives, and "scientifically-based reading research" requirements for instructional programs, local Even Start programs also need to benefit from this type of high-quality training.

I have requested an evaluation to provide a longitudinal look at the achievement of children assisted by the program because I believe that evaluation must be embedded in all such programs.

It is overwhelming to bear heart-felt expressions of appreciation for the program and its

leaders when I have visited Even Start programs. Adults marveled at the change in their children's feeling about reading and learning when they were able to make reading together a daily activity. One mother told me how she thought she couldn't help her 5 year old with reading, but, thanks to the program, she realized that reading together enabled them to help each other with the words each didn't know.

All children deserve an even start. This bill will assure that Even Start facilitators will be well-trained to help parents learn the skills that enable their children to be competitive at the starting line.

AUBURN UNIVERSITY SWIM TEAM

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, last week the Auburn University swim team dominated the NCAA Swimming and Diving Championships by winning the men's national title.

The Tigers routed their nearest competitors by 196.5 points and qualified 11 swimmers for the championship finals and four more for the consolation finals. This was the men's team third national title ever.

But the men were diving on the heels of the Auburn women's swim team, who during the previous week, won their first-ever National Championship.

Mr. Speaker, these young men and women symbolize the strength of the human spirit and the joy of achievement. Let us congratulate them for their victories by acclaiming together in the House: "WAR EAGLE!"

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for your consideration of these Americans. As a tribute for the families of these proud young men and women, please enter their names into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

Auburn University Men's Swim Team: Lyle Babcock, Chad Barlow, Seth Barry, George Bovell, Fred Bousquet, Will Brandt, Matt Bricker, Kurt Cady, Patrick Calhoun, Justin Caron, James Galloway, Mark Gangloff, Caesar Garcia, Derek Gibb, Joseph Gonzales, Andy Haidinyak.

Auburn University Women's Swim Team: Jenni Anderson, Maggie Bowen, Sally Brown, Demerae Christianson, Eileen Coparropa, Kirsty Coventry, Lauren Duerk, Magda Dyszkiewicz, Erin Gayle, Margaret Hoelzer, Kelly Jones, Heather Kemp, Jana Kolukanova, Rachel Korth, Alessandra Lawless, Leslie Lunsmann, Cassidy Maxwell, Jeri Moss, Kelsey Patterson, Ashley Rubenstein, Becky Short, Laura Swander, Erin Volcan, Amy Wheatley.

TRIBUTE TO FORMER CONGRESSMAN TENO RONCALIO

HON. BARBARA CUBIN

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mrs. CUBIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise with sadness today to note the passing of one of Wyoming's most prominent and able public serv-

ants—former Congressman Teno Roncalio. Congressman Roncalio died on March 30 at the age of 87. He will be forever remembered for a body of legislative accomplishments that truly benefitted the state he loved so well.

Known to all in Wyoming as simply Teno, the Congressman was born in 1916 in Rock Springs, WY, the eighth of nine children of an immigrant Italian family. He attended the University of Wyoming, graduated in 1939, and then went to Washington to work for Wyoming Senator Joe Mahoney. He enrolled in Catholic University Law School, only to have his studies interrupted by World War II. He served with distinction in the 18th infantry, and saw combat in seven campaigns including Africa, Italy, France and Germany. He earned a Silver Star for gallantry during the D-Day Invasion at Normandy.

After World War II, he returned to his beloved state and earned a law degree at the University of Wyoming. After practicing law and serving a stint as a deputy county attorney, he was elected to Congress first in 1964 and then, after losing a Senate race, won our House seat again in 1970. He served another four terms with distinction, retiring in 1978.

During his time in Congress, Teno worked diligently on critically important issues to Wyoming. He helped boost Wyoming's share of mineral royalties, a driving force in our state's economy to this day. He wrote legislation to create a number of recreational areas in the state, including Flaming Gorge, Big Horn Canyon and Fossil Butte. After he left Congress, he continued to serve Wyoming, acting as Special Master in the adjudication of water rights on the Big-Horn-Big Wind River. His commitment to environmental concerns and preserving the beauty and history of Wyoming constitute a lasting contribution to the state.

Only last year, the Wyoming congressional delegation was successful in securing approval of legislation to name the United States Post Office in Rock Springs in Teno's honor. It was a privilege to have a part in recognizing a man with such a distinguished career of devoted public service to our state.

My thoughts and prayers are with Teno's family. He was a man of great heart and compassion who will truly be missed. Though he is gone, his legacy in Wyoming will live forever.

CHILD ABDUCTION PREVENTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1104) to prevent child abductions, and for other purposes:

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I rise in reluctant support of H.R. 1104, the Child Abduction Prevention Act. I support H.R. 1104 reluctantly because while the resolution improves upon the AMBER Alert system, it is not a clean AMBER Alert Bill.

The provisions of H.R. 1104 that improve the AMBER Alert system are critical steps in making America safer for children. The AMBER Alert provisions of H.R. 1104 direct